COTTON CHATS

FROM

DRAPER COMPANY

SHIPMAN'S
COMMON-SENSE BINDER

PATENTED

JANUARY 19, 1892. APRIL 19, 1904

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ASA L. SHIPMAN'S SONS
MANUFACTURERS,
NEW YORK.

COTTON CHATS

By the secretary of the

DRAPER COMPANY,

HOPEDALE, MASS.

No. 45. DECEMBER, 1905.

"The whole cotton manufacturing industry of this country is confronted by a scarce help problem. Our automatic looms have already released 10,000 operatives, which have been absorbed by the general growth of the industry. With all the old looms replaced we could release thousands more. Now is the time to renovate old mills."—[Advertisement of Draper Company, October, 1905.

In the recent political campaign in Massachusetts, the advertising of the Draper Company furnished an issue, several quotations from our regular advertisements and published pamphlets being commented on at some length. We are not in the habit of apologizing for our printed remarks, and are perfectly willing to reiterate the statement above printed. There does exist today a scarcity of weavers in Fall River and New Bedford, as witnessed by the number of idle looms in those cities. Recent reports from the South show that the scarcity of spinners and other help still continues. There is plenty of chance for the introduction of labor-saving machinery which can, under present conditions, **increase** the amount of help employed, rather than diminish it; for, if weavers are found for idle looms, more help will also be employed in the preparatory departments; similarly, if more spinners are available in the South, more weavers can be employed. It would be folly for us to attempt a defense of the progress made in the world by the introduction of labor saving machinery. No defense is needed. We will frankly admit that our energies are continually bent on producing machines that will release labor. Experience shows that the labor thus relieved is absorbed by the increase of new mills, this increase being stimulated by the very economies made by the labor saving machinery, as such machinery makes profits and attracts capital to duplicate the results.

The Boston Herald of Nov. 3rd, in commenting on the ad. quoted, states:

We had supposed from recent experiences at Fall River that, while the conditions, so far as labor is concerned, were somewhat better than they were six or eight months ago, there was a sufficiently large number of operatives, as compared with the demand for them, to make it unnecessary for the mill owners materially to increase the rate of wages.

We, of course, are not responsible for the Herald's ignorance. It goes on to say, *We are not in the business of selling cotton machinery.* If it was in that business, it would probably know more about the facts in the case.

Mr. Frank K. Foster, at Fall River, Nov. 2nd, quoted from our *Labor Saving Looms*, in which we claim that the successful Southern mills really prosper by the greater use of Northrop looms, and this statement is held as contradicting the statements of General Guild regarding child labor. It is our private opinion that the use of child labor in the South is not wholly due to its cheapness, but rather due to that same scarcity of labor to which we have already referred, still further emphasizing the necessity for more labor saving machinery.

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FEELER LOOMS.

We are selling large numbers of so-called "Feeler" looms, which change the filling before it is exhausted and thus prevent mispicks at the time of change. They are usually arranged to stop if yarn breaks in the shuttle and the weaver then "matches the pick" as on common looms. In one mill we were troubled by reports of excessive mispicks, the seconds running as high as twenty per cent. from this cause. The faults were naturally laid to the mechanism till the manager introduced a system of paying a slight premium for perfect cloth. His seconds have diminished to an unappreciable factor, proving that the faults were with the weavers rather than the looms. We believe there are other mills where the weavers are equally responsible for bad work for which the loom is held responsible and suggest that this premium system might be tried to good advantage elsewhere.

WELFARE WORK.

Considerable interest is manifested throughout the general world of print in the subject of Welfare Work, by which is meant work on the part of corporations, or other organized bodies, for the physical and moral welfare of their operatives, apart from the general furnishing of such shop and tenement facilities as are absolutely required by law and general custom. Our own Company is often quoted as a leading exponent of this new movement, our village having received extensive notice, and our tenements having won the recognition of first prizes at the Paris, St. Louis and Liege expositions. While our Company does pride itself on the superior grade of tenements furnished to its help, we do not pose as an exponent of a paternalistic system. The following photographs may be of interest in this connection.

The above represents double tenements in our "Bancroft Park" section in its earlier development. They are built from plans submitted by leading New England architects.

This view is also in "Bancroft Park," representing later additions. We have a system of prizes for care of grounds that results most favorably. The lawns are always green and well cut and many of the tenants introduce elaborate landscape gardening treatment.

This view shows a street of "back yards" in the "Bancroft Park" settlement. We require absolute neatness in rear as well as in front premises. The garbage cans are emptied at the Company's expense.